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The penetrative power of such a flame, and hence its beneficial uses in the foggy weather of our latitude, combined with its *photometric massiveness*, would compare, it would seem, very favorably with the incandescent point of light which now at night marks the watch-tower of Liberty on Bedloe's Island, and in fogs dimly shines through the mist in an apologetic and feeble way quite disappointing.

L. P. GRATACAP.

New York, Dec. 15.

### The relations of our colleges and preparatory schools.

In *Science* for Nov. 26 you comment editorially on the teachers' convention at Philadelphia, and close with the sentence, "It would be especially notable should it prove to be the first step in bringing our colleges and preparatory schools into frequent and close conference in some official manner."

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that in Michigan there now exists, and has existed since the year 1870, a relation between the university and the public high schools of the state, under which the graduates of schools, whose courses of study have received, after personal inspection by a committee sent for that purpose, the approval of the university faculty, are admitted to the university on the presentation of their high-school diplomas. The inspection of the schools is repeated at intervals, whenever it seems desirable to do so.

The privilege of admission on diploma, which was at first restricted to the public high schools of Michigan, has been gradually extended, and at the present time the University of Michigan holds this close official relation with thirty schools, public and private, in Michigan, and also with schools in New York, Illinois, Minnesota, and California.

WM. H. PETTEE.

[We were, of course, aware that in Michigan there is a system of co-ordination of university and high schools and academies, and we are now gratified to learn that this co-ordination embraces schools outside of the state of Michigan. It is to be regretted that this system is not adopted generally by our universities and colleges, and we renew our expression of hope that the late Philadelphia conference may emphasize the value of the Michigan system, and lead to its general adoption.—Ed.]

### The Americanists.

There is a ludicrous slip of the pen in the account given in the last number of *Science*, of the Proceedings of the sixth congress of Americanists, held at Turin in September last. Supreme wisdom does not always seem to preside over the councils of this learned body; but it is hardly fair to Professor Grossi to represent him as having read a paper on the 'coins' of the old and new worlds before a society devoted to the study of prehistoric questions. What he had to say was about *monies*, and not *monnates*, in the two continents, and was a sensible and learned discussion of the question. The same gentleman also presented a paper upon pyramids in the old and new worlds, and one upon the folk-lore of the primitive tribes of America.

HENRY W. HAYNES.

Boston, Dec. 13.

### A new bat from Puget Sound.

Among the specimens collected in 1880 by Prof. D. S. Jordan, in the vicinity of Puget Sound, for the national museum, is a small bat, which, upon examination, proves to be different from any hitherto described. It resembles the common blunt-nosed bat, *V. lucifugus*, but differs from it in several important characters. Most noticeable of these is the great length of the tibia; and I have therefore thought it appropriate to name this species *Vespertilio longicrus*. It is the third species added to the fauna of the United States during the year. I subjoin a brief diagnosis.

*Vespertilio longicrus*: fur uniform, umber color above; the same below, but with the upper fourth dull Naples yellow; interfemoral membrane clothed above and below to a line joining the centre of the tibiae; ears shorter than the head; inner margin of the couch convex, that of the tragus concave; calcaneum reaching only to middle of hind margin of interfemoral membrane; teeth as in *V. lucifugus*, but first premolar not imbricate with canine; brain-case very high; length of head and body 47.5 mm., head 16; height of ear, 12.5, tragus 6.5, fore-arm 39, thumb 6, tibia 20, foot 7.5.

F. W. TRUE.

U.S. nat. mus., Dec. 17.

### Preliminary description of a new pocket gopher from California.

Mr. F. Stephens, one of my Californian mammal-collectors, has sent me several specimens of a small pocket gopher, of the genus *Thomomys* (*Thomomys talpoides perpallidus*, sub-sp. nov.), which I do not find described. The sub-specific name '*perpallidus*' refers to the very pale color of the animal. It may be distinguished at a glance from all its congeners, except *T. clusius* of Coles, by its color, which is very pale brownish-yellow above, and white underneath and on the sides and legs. It differs from *T. clusius* in the great length of its tail, which is half as long as the head and body, and in other characters which will be pointed out in a later paper on the animal. All the specimens were captured on the arid Colorado desert, in southern California, in March and April, 1886.

C. HART MERRIAM.

### Contents of foreign educational periodicals.

*Zeitschrift für schul-geographie*, October. — Bemerkungen zum geographischen unterricht an den gymnasien nach den neuen instructionen, Dr. Karl Lechner. — Ueber das verhältniss des land- und wasserareales auf der erdoberfläche. — Notizen, literatur, u.s.w.

*Zeitschrift für schul-geographie*, November. — Einige bemerkungen über den zustand der geographie in Dänemark alschulfach, Prof. Dr. Löffler. — Die verbesserung des julianischen kalenders, Dr. Pein-Belgrad und seine umgebung, Prof. G. Jauss. — Die prairie, ein geographisches charakterbild. — Notizen, literatur, u.s.w.

*Zeitschrift für das realschulwesen*, November. — Die pluralisation der substantivischen wortcomplexes im Französischen, Felix Zverina. — Der planimetrische und constructive unterricht in der unterrealschule, Joseph Bayala. — Schulnachrichten, notizen, anzeigen, u.s.w.